

Application Serial No. 10/510,612

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****NOV 21 2006****REMARKS**

Claims 4-9 are objected to for being multiple dependent claims improperly depending from other multiple dependant claims. Applicant apologizes for the error, and amends claims 4-9 herein such they now dependent from non- multiple dependant claims 1 or 2.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in light of a hypothetical combination of Kienle and Nishimura. Claim 1 is amended herein such that the limitation "detecting means" is replaced by the new limitation "a Hall IC." Claim 1 as amended now recites a touch sensor comprising a Hall IC, a magnet, coupling members and plate springs. By employing this construction, the inventive subject matter as recited by Claim 1 can make it possible "to monitor and correct the abrasion of the cutting edge all the time, and to restrain the reproduction precision to $\pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ or less with respect to the depth of the hole processing" (see, page 12, lines 7-5 from the bottom). This feature of this invention is not disclosed in Kienle or Nishimura, alone or in combination. Claims 2-9 depend upon claim 1, and thus should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

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Applicant respectfully suggests that all rejections and objections are now overcome. Applicant thus respectfully requests early allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes it would be beneficial to speak with the Applicant by telephone, he is invited to please call Applicant's attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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